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IMRAN'S AIDES START DESERTING HIM, BLAME VIOLENCE BY PTI SUPPORTERS

Top aide Fawad Chaudhry the latest to resign from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, a day after ex-minister Shireen Mazarri called its quits

THEY WERE FORCED TO QUIT AT GUNPOINT: IMRAN

At least two dozen leaders have left Imran's party in the aftermath of the May 9 attacks on the Pakistan Army headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Lahore Corps Commander's house, and other military installations. Though the leaders have blamed vandalism for their decisions to leave, Imran alleged they were forced to quit at gunpoint | P12

GOVT MULLING BAN ON PARTY, SAYS MINISTER

The former human rights minister Mazari was arrested four times since May 12 on charges on inciting vandalism. She announced her resignation hours after being released from jail on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif claimed the government is mulling a possible ban on the former cricketer's party

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KILLED IN VIOLENT CLASHES THAT FOLLOWED IMRAN'S ARREST ON MAY 9

Priyank: We'll revise or withdraw BJP's orders, legislation

Says hijab ban, textbook revision, anti-cow slaughter, anti-conversion laws on radar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MINISTER Priyank Kharge on Wednesday said the new Congress government would either revise or withdraw orders, legislation and policies which went against the interests of the state under the previous BJP government, including cow slaughter, school textbook revision and anti-conversion.

He said all the policies will be reviewed with an economic and progressive perspective, including revoking the ban on hijab in educational institutions, which affected the education of several Muslim girls who dropped out of colleges as a result. The government's priority is the education sector, he said, adding that even the deleted portions of history in the school syllabus would be put back into the textbooks after reviewing.

"On the anti-cow slaughter law, the finance department itself had said that the Bill was not worth it and was going to create problems for the industry, and more importantly, that it would cost the exchequer a huge amount of money," said Kharge, who was among the eight ministers inducted into the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led cabinet at the swearing-in ceremony on Saturday.

"We will relook at every policy matter that the previous gov-



BBMP to revive Indira Canteens soon

With Congress returning to power in the state, preparations are in full swing to revive Indira Canteens. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the Palike is planning to overhaul and re-equip the kitchens of Indira Canteens.

ernment has brought in," he told reporters. "All those Bills (laws) and orders that hamper the economic progress of Karnataka, its prosperity, and will affect Kannadigas, will be withdrawn. Making Karnataka once again the number one state is our intention, and we will take steps in that direction." He said a lot of executive orders that the BJP government had passed and which were against the transparency act "as they have tried to favour certain people, will also be reviewed, not in the interest of Congress but in the interest of the state." P5

Oppn to boycott Parliament inauguration

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

IN their latest showdown with the Centre, at least 19 Opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28. Terming the decision as most unfortunate, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi appealed to them to reconsider it. In a joint statement, 19 parties, including Congress, Trinamool and AAP, said, "When the soul of democracy has been sucked out from the Parliament, we find no value in a new building. We announce our collective decision to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building."

The letter said Modi's decision to inaugurate the new building by himself, completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu, is a grave insult and direct assault on democracy, which demands a commensurate response.

Several parties, including Congress and Trinamool have been critical of the government for scheduling the ceremony to coincide with the birth anniversary of Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar on May 28. They also pointed out that the appropriate procedure was for Murmu to do the honours, as the PM is the head of the executive, not the legislature. The letter went on to allege "that this undignified act insults the high office of the President, and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution."

The other signatories to the letter are DMK, JD(U), NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), CPI(M), SP, RJD, CPI, IUML, JMM, NC, KCM, RSP, VCK, MDMK and RLD. Though Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is not a signatory, the party said it would not take part in the event.

However, BJD, SAD and YSR Congress will take part in the ceremony.



The govt has extended invitation to all parties. They will respond as per their wisdom

Amit Shah



Not inviting President to the ceremony is an insult to the top constitutional post

Rahul Gandhi



Many in the Opposition feel the President should rightfully inaugurate the new Parliament

NCP statement



GOLDEN SCEPTRE FOR PANDIT NEHRU

Presentation by Head Of Thiruvavudhurai Mutt

Golden gift to India's 1st PM

According to this article in the August 13, 1947 edition of the Indian Express, the golden sceptre worth ₹15,000 (at the time) would be presented to Nehru.

PRIDE OF PLACE FOR TN'S TRYST WITH HISTORY

T MURUGANANDHAM @Chennai

ON May 28, when the new Parliament House is dedicated to the nation, a gold-plated silver staff from a forgotten past will emerge as a new symbol for India in its full imperial glory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the sacred Sengol (sceptre) that symbolises fair and equitable governance and install it near the Lok Sabha Speaker's podium.

The Sengol, originally presented by Thiruvavudhurai Adheenam of Tamil Nadu to the first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at his house, on August 14, on the eve of independence, represents the ultimate transfer of power from the British. The ornate staff will be brought to New Delhi from a museum in Allahabad, where it has been safely kept, and will be installed in parliament.

Shedding light on this symbol of power, Home Minister Amit Shah told reporters in Delhi on Wednesday, that even after 75 years of independence, most people are unaware of this event in which India's transfer of power took place through the handing over of the Sengol to Nehru, a ritual followed by kings in TN while ascending the throne. He said Modi has decided to adopt the Sengol as a national symbol of 'Amrit Kaal'.

EXPRESS READ

Cabinet expansion: Siddu, DKS in Delhi

Bengaluru: After the fight for the chief minister's post, there seems to be a tug-of-war between CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar over ministerial berths for their loyalists. Both the leaders left for New Delhi on Wednesday to get the party high command's nod to induct 20 more MLAs into the cabinet | P4

Man kills nurse, stores body parts in fridge

Hyderabad: A 48-year-old man stabbed a 55-year-old nurse, identified as Yerram Anuradha Reddy, and then chopped her body into six pieces, in Hyderabad. He then dumped her head into the Musi river and kept the rest of the body parts in a fridge. The police have arrested the accused B Chandra Mohan | P5

PM flags attack on temples at bilateral meet

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday shared his concern with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese over the spate of attacks on temples and the proliferation of pro-Khalistan elements in Australia, at the business end of his visit to Sydney.

"We will not accept any elements that harm the friendly and warm ties between India and Australia by their actions or thoughts... Albanese once again assured me today that he will take strict action against such elements," Modi said after their bilateral talks.

Later responding to a question on the activities of the pro-Khalistani elements in her country, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Australia is a



Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese witness the exchange of MOUs at a joint press meet in Sydney on Wednesday | P1

multicultural democracy and that there is no space for hatred and violence.

The talks focused on cooperation in green hydrogen, defence and security, trade and investment, new and renewable energy, critical minerals, education, complementarities and competencies of the two economies and people to people ties.

Australia's consulate office in Bengaluru soon

The Australian High Commission is all set to establish its consulate office in Bengaluru. Australian PM Anthony Albanese said the consulate office will be opened in the city by May end. It will be the fifth Australian diplomatic office in India. On Tuesday, PM Modi said that India will set up its consulate office in Brisbane soon.

Both sides signed the Terms of Reference of the Australia-India Green Hydrogen Taskforce and an agreement on migration and mobility.

"In our bilaterals we reiterated our shared ambition for an early conclusion of the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement later this year. Prime

Minister Modi and I are pleased to have just witnessed the exchange of the Australia-India Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement. This arrangement will promote the exchange of students, graduates, researchers and business people; expand our people-to-people ties and enhance cooperation in preventing people smuggling," Albanese said.

The PM extended an invite to Albanese to attend the G20 Summit in September as also the cricket World Cup. He said visiting Australians would also get to witness Diwali celebrations around that time of the year.

"In the language of cricket, our ties have reached the T20 mode," Modi said, recalling that this was their sixth meeting in a year, which indicated the maturity of the relationship.



MI's Akash Madhwal celebrates a wicket against Lucknow | ASHWIN PRASATH

Mumbai flies to Ahmedabad

MUMBAI BATTERS POST A DAUNTING 182/8 TO ENSURE BI-RUN VICTORY AGAINST LUCKNOW AND A PLACE IN 2ND QUALIFIER AT AHMEDABAD

POWERPLAY MATTERS

Rohit Sharma knew they had to make the most of the powerplay when he opted to bat and MI did just that, smashing 62/2 in the first six overs. From there, Cameron Green (47) and Suryakumar Yadav (33) took charge to guide through the middle-overs

FLYING AKASH DESTROYS LSG

After beginning the season on the bench, Akash Madhwal's stock has risen at the rate of knots. The pacer, who picked up four against Hyderabad in the last match, picked up 5/5 in a dream spell to help MI advance to the second Qualifier. The next job for Madwal, an engineer by profession, is to quell Gujarat's challenge next | P15

NOT FOR AAM JANATA

World's costliest mango has a price tag of ₹40,000 a piece

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Koppal

WORLD'S costliest mango, Miyazaki, is now on display at a mela in Koppal.

With each fruit priced at a whopping Rs 40,000 (Rs 2.5 lakh per kg), the Horticulture Department is planning to popularise its cultivation in Koppal district. Horticulture officials brought only one Miyazaki mango from Madhya Pradesh for display at the mela. This variety is widely grown in Japan.

Hundreds of farmers have been thronging the mela to have a glimpse of Miyazaki, since its inauguration on May 23.

The mela will continue till May 31. Many farmers were seen clicking selfies and pictures of this expensive mango. The pictures of red Miyazaki have gone viral after the mela began.

Other popular varieties such as Koppal Kesar, Benshan, Dasher, Swarnarekha, Alphonso, Totapuri, Rasamari,



Punari and Mallika are on display. In all, 51 farmers have put up stalls to sell mangoes at this mela.

Ramakrishna Bevinakatti, a juice shop owner from Gadag district who visited the mela, said, "It is amazing to see a mango which costs Rs 40,000 per fruit. The horticultural officials at the mela stated that Miyazaki costs Rs 2.50 lakh

per kg. When we asked an official who will eat this mango after the mela, he just laughed, stating that they have only one!"

Deputy Director of Horticulture Krishna Ukkund said, "We have plans to popularise Miyazaki cultivation in Koppal district. The department will guide farmers to grow this variety in their farms."

We have plans to popularise Miyazaki cultivation in Koppal district. The department will guide farmers to grow this variety in their farms

Krishna Ukkund, Deputy Director of Horticulture

No 'power bhagya', man attacks Gescom staffer

AMIT S UPADHYE @Koppal

A Gescom employee was beaten up by a man at Kukanapalli village in Koppal district on Tuesday.

R Manjunatha, the bill collector, had gone to the village to issue electricity bills when the accused, Chandrashekar Hiremath, who had not cleared his pending bills, attacked him.

The Munirabad police apprehended Hiremath after the incident. Several cases have been registered against the accused.

According to eye witnesses, Hiremath abused and assaulted Manjunatha and threw slippers at him when he was asked to clear his pending bills. He also tried to attack another Gescom employee, who was recording the incident on his cellphone.

It is said that Hiremath called the Gescom office a day after his electricity connection was disconnected for not clearing bills amounting to Rs 9,000. It is learnt that Hiremath took the electricity connection illegally six months ago. The accused demanded that he needs time to



The videograph shows Chandrashekar Hiremath assaulting R Manjunatha

clear the bills and he will do so only after the state government implements its guarantee of providing 200 units of free electricity, according to eye witnesses. There have been many such cases of people refusing to pay bills and abusing bill collectors after the announcement of 200 units of free electricity.

Social media is agog with messages asking people not to pay their electricity bills. The delay in implementation of the guarantee by the state government is only making things worse for bill collectors.

"Many bill collectors in Bal-lari and Koppal divisions have applied for leave because of harassment by consumers," said a Gescom staffer.